

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for Harmonized Tariff Schedule ("HTS") auditing by an importer using a software user interface and an importer database coupled to the software user interface using one or more layers of executable code, the method comprising:

receiving by an importer receiving from a customs broker in electronic form:

scanned images of entry packets relating to products imported by the importer which the customs broker assembled and submitted to U.S. customs, each entry packet including at least one commercial invoice, at least one shipping manifest, and at least one U.S. customs form which the customs broker prepared and which sets forth an HTS code and a duty relating to at least one of the products; and

a broker database containing information relating to the entry packets in a form that may be electronically compared; a copy of an entry packet which the customs broker previously submitted to U.S. Customs, the entry packet containing information relating to a shipment for importation;

the importer entering, by the importer, the scanned images copy of the entry packet and the information in the broker database into a first repository in the importer database;

the importer linking the scanned images and the information in the broker database to corresponding records of the importer about the products in a second repository in the importer database;

the importer electronically and methodically comparing the information in the broker database with the corresponding records of the importer;

the importer comparing information in the scanned images with the corresponding records of the importer consulting, by the importer, a second repository in the database, the second repository containing records of the importer relevant to a plurality of imported goods;

comparing, by the importer, the entry packet in the first repository with the

~~records in the second repository;~~

~~the comparing including comparing an HTS code on one of the customs forms with an HTS code with the corresponding records of the importer;—~~

~~the importer identifying, by the importer, one or more discrepancies between information in the broker database and/or the scanned images ~~the copy of the entry packet and the corresponding records of the importer based on the comparisons~~, thereby auditing the entry packets; and~~

~~the importer generating, by the importer, a report identifying the one or more discrepancies between the information in the broker database and/or the scanned images ~~copy of the entry packet and the corresponding records of the importer~~; and~~

~~the importer taking remedial action to correct the discrepancies.~~

2-4 (Canceled)

5 (Currently amended). The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein ~~the copy of the each entry packet includes~~ comprises a 7501 Customs form.

6-8 (Canceled).

9 (Previously amended). The HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the comparing ~~includes the copy of the entry packet with the records comprises~~ comparing attribute classifications assigned by the customs broker to attribute classifications located in the ~~corresponding records of the importer~~~~second repository~~.

10-15 (canceled).

16. (Currently amended) A system for auditing Harmonized Tariff Schedule (“HTS”) classifications, comprising:

a database comprising internal records of ~~an~~~~the~~ importer relevant to ~~Harmonized Tariff Schedule (“HTS”)~~ classifications;

a computer terminal;

a user interface accessible from the computer terminal; and

a software program suite coupled to the database and to the user interface, the software program suite configured to:

allow an importer to receive from a customs broker in electronic form:

scanned images of entry packets relating to products imported by the importer which the customs broker assembled and submitted to U.S. customs, each entry packet including at least one commercial invoice, at least one shipping manifest, and at least one U.S. customs form which the customs broker prepared and which sets forth an HTS code and a duty relating to at least one of the products; and

a broker database containing information relating to the entry packets in a form that may be electronically compared;

a copy of electronic entry packets from a customs broker which the customs brokers previously submitted to U.S. Customs;

enable the an importer at the computer terminal to:

enter the scanned images and the information in the broker database into a first repository in the importer database;

link the scanned images and the information in the broker database to corresponding records of the importer about the products in a second repository in the importer database;

electronically and methodically compare the information in the broker database with the corresponding records of the importer;

compare information in the scanned images with the corresponding records of the importer;

the comparing including comparing an HTS code on one of the customs forms with an HTS code with the corresponding records of the importer;

identify one or more discrepancies between information in the broker database and/or the scanned images and the corresponding records of the importer based on the comparisons, thereby auditing the entry packets;

generate a report identifying the one or more discrepancies between the information in the broker database and/or the scanned images and the corresponding records of the importer; and

take remedial action to correct the discrepancies.

~~- compare one of the entry packets to the internal records, thereby auditing the entry packets; and~~

~~enable the importer to generate a report comprising discrepancies between the one of the copy of the entry packets and the internal records.~~

17-21 (Canceled).

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16 wherein each the entry packets includes comprise a Customs 7501 form, a commercial invoice, and a shipping manifest.

23-37 (Canceled).

38 (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the comparing information in the scanned images with the corresponding records of the importer includes:

displaying a screen which includes:

a link to more information about one of the invoices;

a link to more information about a product within the one invoice; and

a link to more information about an HTS code relating to the one invoice; activating one or more of the links; and

in response to activating each link:

displaying the more information which is linked to the link; and

comparing it to at least one of the scanned images.

39 (New) The system of claim 16 wherein the software program suite is configured during the comparing information in the scanned images with the corresponding records of the importer to:

display a screen which includes:

a link to more information about one of the invoices;

a link to more information about a product within the one invoice; and

a link to more information about an HTS code relating to the one invoice;

allow one or more of the links to be activated; and
in response to activating each link:
 display the more information which is linked to the link; and
 compare it to at least one of the scanned images.